



**Public Safety Committee Meeting**  
**10:00am, Tuesday, January 16, 2024**  
**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and**  
**broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Present: Council members Ward, Anderson, Bogosian

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Chief Oliverius, Chief Cornett

**2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Council Member Anderson nominated Council Member Bogosian for Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Bogosian seconded the nominated. The motion passed.

Council Member Bogosian nominated Council Member Anderson for Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Anderson seconded the nomination. The motion passed.

**Council Member Bogosian will serve as Chair and Council Member Anderson will serve as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee.**

**3. Citizen's Comments**

Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

**4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – August 1 and September 28, 2023**

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1 and September 28, 2023 meetings, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Annual review of automatic aid agreement for fire, technical rescue, hazmat, and marine fighting**

Chief Oliverius gave an overview of the 12-month trial program of the Isle of Palms' participation in the automatic aid program. He said that 84% of the calls for which they were activated were cancelled in route. He gave a breakdown of where the calls originated from and details of events where they were able to render aid on site.

He also reviewed the benefits of their participation in the automatic aid program including standardized training, shared knowledge, access to advanced technology, shared equipment,

facilities and instructors, decreased costs, and training schedule flexibility. He also spoke about safer working conditions, increased efficiencies, and cost sharing benefits.

He said the staff has enjoy the additional training but noted the additional workload of answering more calls. Conversations about how to minimize the number of calls cancelled in route are being held by officials from several departments. Overall, Chief Oliverius believes the Isle of Palms is receiving more help than they give.

Administrator Fragoso echoed the chief's comments about staff response to the program.

**MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend to City Council the continuation of the automatic aid agreement. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**B. Discussion and consideration of changes to the noise ordinance**

Administrator Fragoso gave an overview of the work done by the Public Safety Committee and Planning Commission on the noise ordinance. She reported that plans are being made to hold the quarterly meeting with the business owners to elicit their feedback on the noise ordinance draft.

Director Kerr provided more specific details on the noise ordinance work and discussions of the Planning Commission. Their recommendations include a 5-decibel difference when answering calls where loud music or conversation is the concern.

Chief Cornett said most of the noise-related complaints they receive are due to loud music or conversation. He also believed that one set of decibel levels in the ordinance would be easier to manage.

Both Council members Bogosian and Anderson would like to see the data from the City's noise meter installed at the Sweetgrass Inn.

Discussion ensued about the penalties for noise ordinance violations and how they relate to business license revocation.

Chief Cornett said he would like to see the ordinance allow officers the ability to issue multiple tickets on the same day if there is no compliance.

Additional discussion ensued about issuing tickets to businesses/managers on duty/business owners for noise violations. Chief Cornett pointed out that tickets must be issued to a person who can be notified of a court date. Administrator Fragoso said she will discuss the matter further with the City Attorney.

**C. Update on SCDOT restriping of the connector**

Administrator Fragoso reported that she has requested a meeting with SCDOT staff to get an update on their progress with the engineering study for Option 5. She is unsure if the Town of Mt. Pleasant has voted on the matter.

**D. Update on island-wide walkability study**

Administrator Fragoso said she expects the RFP for the walkability study to go out sometime in the first quarter of 2024. This project is being funded by ExploreCharleston.

**6. New Business**

**Discussion of policy initiatives and projects for the committee to pursue in 2024**

Council Member Bogosian suggested that in addition to their work on noise and livability concerns, the Committee should work on the Palm Boulevard redesign and the restriping of the Isle of Palms Connector.

Council Member Anderson would like to work with the new parking management program to better parking conditions around the island.

Administrator Fragoso suggested the Committee address the penalty section of the ordinances related to short-term violations. She expressed concern that currently a garbage can violation holds the same weight as a noise violation with regards to strikes against a property that could result in a business license revocation process.

Chief Oliverius said the Fire Department will finish its strategic plan in March and would like input and recommendations from the Committee before it is sent to City Council for adoption.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 11:00am unless jury trials will be taking place that week.

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk

**Public Safety Committee 1/16/2024; Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 29 since 4/13/2022) Regarding NOISE ORDINANCE; NUISANCE.**

Requesting for the **twenty-first (21st) time** (twice in writing) to provide us written assurances regarding enforcement of **§ 9-2-5 (b)(c)**. **“Amplified Music”** from Sweetgrass has resulted into a **“Nuisance”**, which is being perpetrated by the City, as a result of not enforcing the ordinance.

Requesting for the **fifth (5th) time** to enforce **§ 9-2-5 (i)(1)(2).....Nuisance**. We have requested, in writing, the city issue a **cease and desist** order to the Sweetgrass Inn as a result of Sweetgrass’s egregious noise violations over the past three (3) years. At this time, our city has demonstrated, they do not have **the will** to do the right thing; rescuing the residents from the **Empire**.

The Sweetgrass Inn began operations in March 2021. After a couple of months, it became apparent Sweetgrass was not a hotel; it was an event center. We struggled with the noise nuisance the event center created the entire season. We tried to work with management; only to be lied to (numerous times) regarding what the law **entitled** them to do.

After meeting with Mayor Pounds and Councilman Hahn, explaining our situation; we followed their direction to meet with Public Safety Committee on April 13, 2022. Totally unfamiliar with the procedures of presenting to PSC; we presented with documentation. After our presentation, I innocently asked Mrs. Anderson, Chairman “what can you do for us”? She responded, “we will get back to you”. **Fact: We never heard back from Mrs. Anderson.**

Subsequently, the months rolled by. No relief from the Empire. On August 23, 2022, out of frustration, we presented to City Council regarding our situation. Immediately we heard from Mr. Pierce and Mr. Bogosain; later from Mr. Ward, who was out of the country at the time.

Factually, in the past fourteen (14) months, the resort made a few concessions to us regarding the noise nuisance. However, our sense is they piled on in other areas as a result. **Some of their events are taunting and bullying us.**

In the resort’s effort to **dehumanize us**, we experienced a number of unconscionable experiences. Too numerous to recite today, but forthcoming; we were able to dispel all their **false narratives and misinformation**.

How did we do it? **With facts**. FIOA requests, city documents, county documents, emails, time stamped videos, the Randy Bell city council archived video, phone call screen shots, NYT health articles.

The Planning Commission made a **grave misstep** regarding their formulation of decibels. They included the sound of the ocean and the wind in their “ambient noise readings”; thus increasing the proposed decibels to compensate for the ocean and wind. Residents do not need to be penalized for the sound of the ocean and wind. Finally, their

recommendations were merely **designed to appease commercial special interest groups**; not residents.

Regarding Livability: the sound of the ocean and wind is arguably this island's greatest asset; **one of the many reasons residents want to live here and call IOP home.**